



Arlington Commission for Arts & Culture

Date: Thursday, Sept 1, 2022

Time: 7:00-8:30p

Location: Zoom 1

<https://town-arlington-ma-us.zoom.us/j/89888595817>

Passcode: 093699

Agenda

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| 1. | For Approval: July minutes | 7:00p-7:05p |
| 2. | Updates: Fundraising | 7:05p-7:15p |
| 3. | Updates: Murals & Other CE | 7:15p-7:30p |
| 4. | Discussion: Cultural District | 7:30p-7:40p |
| 5. | Discussion: Town Day (Sept. 17): Goals, Programming, Publicity | 7:40p-8:10 |
| 6. | New Business | 8:10p-8:30p |

Next meeting will be Thursday, October 6 from 7:00-8:30p



Arlington Commission for Arts & Culture

Date: July 7, 2022

Time: 7:00-8:30pm

Location: Zoom

Minutes

Attending: Stewart Ikeda, Tom Formicola, Lidia Kenig-Scher, Steve Poltorzycki, Sarah Morgan-Wu, Cristin Canterbury Bagnall, Brian McMurray

Absent: Stephanie Marlin-Curiel, Christine Noah, Beth Locke, Tom Davison

Guests: Cecily Miller, Ali Carter, Kelly Lynema, Terry Holt, Anna Litten, Ed Blundell, Adria Arch, Public Guest

Meeting called to order at 7:04pm

1) ROLL CALL

2) APPROVAL OF JUNE MINUTES

- Minutes unanimously approved small edits

3) INTRODUCTIONS

- Several new liaisons introduced themselves, at least temporarily representing departing members
- Anna Litten, Acting Library Director, will be Library Liaison to the Cultural District Core Managing Partners replacing Andrea Nicolay, with discussion to follow as to whether she would also assume Nicolay's voting Commissioner seat; Sarah Morgan-Wu will take over Cultural District coordinator role previously held by Nicolay
- Outgoing DPCD liaison Ali Carter introduced Kelly Lynema, Acting Director of DPCD, who will be or appoint new liaison, TBD
- Brian McMurray was previously voted in by the Grants to replace Nick Castellano as its voting liaison; McMurray had already previously been sworn in before the Select Board, so its within the GC's ability to shift ACAC liaisons by internal vote

4) UPDATE FROM CO-CHAIRS

- Remote Meetings are scheduled to expire July 15; there are currently some state government proposals to extend policy or allow hybrid meetings that could permit continued remote meeting; Stewart has reached out re: physical rooms that might be scheduled if in-person meetings are required.

5) LIVE ARTS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT UPDATES

- Cristin Canterbury Bagnall presented information about the Live Arts performance series, to resume July 15, with all featured performances to be held on Friday evenings at 6PM in the newly reconstructed Broadway Plaza
- Commission volunteers have opportunities to greet the public, document the events, and share information about our programs and what we do if we take turns attending

- We need to provide much clearer instruction about the process for applying for, paying for, and selecting locations for busking than is provided for in the Select Board application form on the Town website
- Cecily Miller presented her recommendations on a proposal she received by a local artist who wishes to install a whimsical “Fairy House” art piece on a tree in Spy Pond Park. She recommended ACAC’s approval of the proposal’s artistic merit, on condition that the artist also agree to monitor and maintain the piece on a regular basis, and consult the Friends of Spy Pond Park and the Town Tree Warden about her plan. The artist will then have ACAC’s recommendation for her application to the Parks and Rec, which will have final authority.

6) ARLINGTON CULTURAL DISTRICT UPDATES

- The MCC has significantly adjusted key aspects of its Cultural District Initiative in ways that impact Arlington. ACD’s designation was just about to go up for renewal when we received notice that our designation would be automatically extended to a total period of 10 years. Annual reporting at least for now will continue.
- Significant COVID-recovery grants are available and eligibility has been extended to Cultural Districts
- Sarah Morgan-Wu has called an outside meeting of Core Managing Partners later in July to analyze and discuss the changes both to Arlington CD agreements and functioning within ACAC, personnel changes, and the changes in state procedures, with results to be presented at a future ACAC meeting.
- Christine Noah of the Fundraising Committee shared in writing that Mirak Properties had made a generous donation to sponsor the exciting new Cultural District Self-Guided Audio Tour.

6) TOWN DAY AND PLEIN AIR

- Lidia, Sarah and artist Maryanne Hondo are organizing “En Plein Air” painting event to be held within the Winfield Robbins Memorial Garden, as reported in earlier meetings, with a plan and budget approved by the co-chairs.
- ACAC will have an additional booth on the street, shared with DPCD. This should be staffed by representatives of ACAC to both promote our high-profile activities and committees (Grants Committee cycle, ARPA-funded murals, Live Arts) and also redirect traffic into the Garden. Ideally, ACAC’s Town Day presence would be produced by a coordinator or project manager with new promotional collateral and signage, appealing programming. Some commissioners with dual roles such as Library, ACA, Chamber will have other responsibilities that day and be unable to participate. Lidia will poll whole Commission list for volunteers.

9) NEW BUSINESS

- Ed Blundell, who worked with Tom Davison on producing an excellent Garage Band event, as the afterparty to an equally excellent Arlington Center for the Arts-produced Porchfest day, presented a new idea arising out of Fundraising Committee. He is investigating bands for a high-profile concerts, possibly to be held in the Regent Theatre, to benefit ACAC. These would possibly be staged in early December. Ed will report on developments to the Fundraising and Community Engagement committees which would naturally collaborate on this kind of project.
- The Grants Committee is surveying the community about its practices and priorities; ACAC will help disseminate the survey widely.
- Terry Holt is looking for help collecting content and updates for the website and newsletter, including commissioner profiles, information about upcoming Artist in Residence projects, Live Arts act details, and other.
- Stewart Ikeda suggests foregoing the formal August meeting in favor of an in-person mixer, providing an opportunity for the Commission to be reintroduced to the many new stakeholders and contacts that are unfamiliar with us, and to strengthen working relationships after such a prolonged period of working remotely. He will send around a poll to the commission and committees on preferences and dates.

Meeting adjourned 8:47pm

Respectfully submitted by Stewart Ikeda



Arlington Commission for Arts & Culture Updates

September 2022

For the ACAC meeting held online this month, we again anticipate focusing on a shortlist of items in need of voting, or priority discussion of future actions. In keeping with Open Meetings, these notes, **September agenda**, and "Executive Order on Remote Participation" will be published publicly at least 48-hours before the meeting. We will circulate a Registration Process for the Meeting.

Please feel free to contact the chairs with any clarification or correction, to add any new business, and ESPECIALLY NOTE if any committee item entails a significant budget request, procedural change, or other action that requires a vote.

We acknowledge that the town of Arlington is located on the ancestral lands of the Massachusetts Tribe, the tribe of Indigenous peoples from whom the Colony, Province, and Commonwealth have taken their names. We pay our respects to the ancestral bloodline of the Massachusetts Tribe and their descendants who still inhabit historic Massachusetts territories today.

PRELIMINARY TO MEETING

Review this document and submit comments, corrections, new business to the [co-chairs](#).

Review [last month's Meeting's minutes](#) and be prepared to vote on modification or approval.

All Commissioners review and understand Town's "[Remote Participation Meeting Checklist](#)" and guidelines for Zoom meetings, collected in a Google Drive folder, [ACAC Remote Open Meetings Notes and Guidelines](#).

RESOURCES

[ACAC Bylaws](#) | [ACAC on Town Website](#) | [ACAC Operations Plan](#) | [Strategic Plan](#) | [ACAC 2021 Annual Report](#) | August 2021 Retreat [Whiteboard](#)

COMMITTEE, PROJECT, AND TASK FORCE UPDATES

FY22 Commission Meetings Schedule: First Thursdays at 7PM unless quorum can't be attained. The next meeting is scheduled for **OCTOBER 6 at 7PM**.

Full Commission: The co-chairs and treasurer are pleased to report the extension of the emergency rules allowing Remote Meetings, which are now set to expire March 31, 2023. For the time being we can continue to meet via Zoom; commissioners are encouraged to share concerns or interests about meeting formats, in-person or online, privately with the chairs. ACAC was pleased to have Commissioners attend the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the newly renovated Broadway Plaza, which has become an accessible, airy venue for this summer's Live Arts and resumed outdoors dining for local businesses.

Community Engagement: Live Arts performance series resumed July 15, with featured performances held Friday evenings at 6PM in the newly reconstructed Broadway Plaza, currently scheduled to run through September 2. This year's engagements featured 3 visual arts demonstrations, the dancer **Seyyide Sultan**, **True Story Theater**, and 7 musical performances, engaging a total of 25 artists. Each week drew 70-100 people, with many audience members staying for 20 minutes or more. Thanks to the volunteers who help staff and promote this free series.

The new collection of painted utility boxes, coordinated this by **Laurie Bogdan**, have been completed, and each artist and box is being featured in the [ArtsArlington newsletter](#).

Planning is underway for **Town Day** on **September 17, 2022**, where ACAC will have presence at two areas – a shared booth with DPCD and the **Plein Air Painting** event in the **Robbins Garden**. **Lidia Kenig-Scher** and **Sarah Morgan-Wu** are organizing the latter. ACAC will discuss additional staffing, volunteer, publicity and programming needs at the Sept. 1 meeting.

Arlington Cultural District: ACAC Commissioners and Interim Libraries Director **Anna Litten** met with our new MCC Cultural District rep **Carolyn Cole** to tour the district, review Arlington's progress and recent restructuring of the Managing Partnership roles, and discuss future directions of the [Cultural District Initiative](#). Cole was also introduced to the new **ACD Self-Guided Audio Tour** on [Soundcloud](#), [Google Podcasts](#), and an [interactive Google Map](#) that has been viewed over 1,600 times since launching this summer. Thanks go to **Mirak Properties** for its generous sponsorship of the exciting new Tour.

Poet Laureate: ACAC commends **Steven Ratiner** upon the completion of his three-year appointment as town Poet Laureate and sincerely thanks him for all he's done to elevate the presence of poetry in our town! During his time as Poet Laureate, he has published over 120

Red Letter Poems, participated in public readings townwide, and spearheaded special poetry projects for our schoolchildren.

VisitArlington: **Beth Locke** is at work on a new edition of *Visit Arlington Magazine & Community Guide* and visitarlington.org. ACAC is contributing feature content about the Cultural District. Other content contributions are welcomed – please reach out to Beth if able to contribute.

ArtLinks: **Janice Hayes-Cha** is the featured artist. ArtLinks announced it would run a fall exhibit at **The Roasted Granola**.

Fundraising: FunComm had a productive August meeting, creating a plan and timeline for a Calendar Year End fundraising campaign. The campaign depends upon the participation of commissioners to share ideas for people to contact and write personal notes. **Christine Noah** also attended an info session about new unrestricted MCC ARPA grants we will apply for. **Ed Blundell** proposed new ideas for fundraising opportunities including performing arts events and approaching larger corporations in the region. There was discussion of beginning long-term planning for a “Chairful style” fundraising event that would incorporate fundraising, visual art, music, literary arts, etc. similar to the last, successful Chairful outside the Jason Russell House.

Grants Committee: ACAC welcomes **Brian McMurray** as the next liaison from the Grants Committee, and thanks outgoing liaison **Nick Castellano**. The Grants Committee expects to provide information about its activities at Town Day.

Marketing: All commissioners are invited to share with **Terese Holt** a paragraph bio about their background and a statement about their experience working with ACAC.